



Collection: A Critical Component in Managing Electronic Waste



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Protection Agency**



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Spent Lead Acid Batteries/E-Waste**

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Goal:

In developing
collection programs:

**Make recycling your
electronics as easy as it is
to buy them**



Issues in Collection:

How to get consumers to participate?

- Need to be predictable- both in location and collection times.
- Make recycling options convenient. But what is the definition of convenient?
 - **Need to think about what would be effective for where citizens are located: Rural, suburban or urban settings. Is it located in commonly visited routes or locations?**
 - **Different kinds of programs for different consumers: ongoing collection sites, one-day recycling events retailer takeback, mailback programs. Variety of programs to meet local needs may be necessary.**

Issues in Collection: How to get consumers to participate?

- Make collection low cost/ affordable
- May need consumer incentives (manufacturer or retailer coupons, rebates, etc.)
- Increase Consumer Awareness on existing infrastructure for collecting electronics.
 - Different infrastructure for different products-cell phones, TVs, computers.
 - Communicate why it is important to recycle electronics (social and environmental benefits).

Issues in Collection: Business is different



- Small businesses: need pick up from recycler or drop off at municipal collections.
- Larger businesses: need pick-up from recyclers.
- Reverse Logistics opportunities in deliveries.
- Uncertainty in choosing safe, environmentally-friendly electronics recyclers.
- Incentives for recycling:
 - Hazardous waste management requirements and landfill bans can spur recycling. Though legislation usually does not direct collection systems.
 - Storage Costs.

* Recycling or Reusing used electronics can be incorporated into lease agreements/contracts

Issues in Collection: Costs

- **Cost- labor and transportation in collection programs can be expensive. How can collection systems become more efficient? (collecting in bulk? using reverse logistics? Anticipating a predicable stream)**
- **Televisions (and old CRT monitors) are usually more costly to manage and recycle than computers, which are more profitable.**
- **Administrative costs depend on the program.**



Trends in Collection Systems in the US

- **Periodic events are increasing in frequency, with longer collection times.***
- **Fees are stabilizing or decreasing for nonregulated programs (dollar amount ranges from a few dollars-\$30 for larger televisions).***
- **Some collection systems limit the scope of products to keep fees low.**

- Source: *E-scrap News*. April 2007

Trends in Collection Systems in the US

- **New industry partnerships continue to proliferate**
 - examples: Dell/Goodwill; Sony/Waste Management
- **Retailer Takeback**
 - Examples: Staples, Office Depot
- **Industry programs a complement to state and local programs.**
- **Mailback programs or trade-in programs.**
 - Do they work? Depends on consumer?



Contact information

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